

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 21-34 contain allowable subject matter.

Additionally, Applicant acknowledges that claims 9-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1- 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent No. 0,344,901 to Armstrong et al. (hereinafter "Armstrong"). Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Armstrong discloses (in-part) a ribbon supply spool, a ribbon take-up spool that takes up an ink ribbon from said ribbon supply spool by rotating in a first rotation direction, said ribbon take-up spool being provided with an engaging portion, an engaging member that resiliently engages with said engaging portion to prevent said ribbon take-up spool from rotating in a second rotation direction opposite to said first rotation direction, said engaging member coming off from said engaging portion when said ribbon take-up spool rotates in said first direction, and wherein said engaging portion includes first and second walls said take-up spool being prevented from rotating in said second direction as said engaging member engages with the first wall and said take-up spool being allowed to rotate in said first direction as said engaging member slips on the second wall. We respectfully traverse these rejections.

Armstrong does not teach that said take-up spool being allowed to rotate in said first direction as said engaging member slips on the second wall. Specifically, referring to Fig. 1 of Armstrong, and as cited in the Office Action, Armstrong teaches that the first and second wall both intersect perpendicularly with the outer circumferential surface of the take-up spool

60. Armstrong does not teach, as shown in Fig. 5 of the present invention, that the second wall 38 is obliquely formed, or inclined, so as to face outside the take-up spool. Therefore allowing the engaging member to slip on [the] second wall.

Based on the argument presented above, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, dependent claims 2-8, which depend directly, or indirectly, from independent claim 1, are also in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-34 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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